From: Kyle Hoker
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Short and to the point

I am a Microsoft Windows user both at work and at home. I have no ill feelings toward the company, yet I wanted to address this issue of a remedy to the Microsoft case. Would a Microsoft breakup hurt the economy?

The answer, concisely, in no. Realistically, it would be a major boon to the technology sector. Short answer, no one can compete with Microsoft. Even those that have had success with products outside of Microsoft's control are immediately either purchased outright or carbon-copied into 'extended functionality.'

Consider this: Microsoft, for all their 'innovation,' has never actually created anything substantial save 'integration.' Microsoft did not bring us a Word processor, or a spreadsheet. They did not bestow upon the world a graphical user interface. Even the web browser escaped their notice for several years. They were not the first to pioneer video and audio compression for streaming media. They have never been trailblazers of security.

Simply put, Microsoft has always had the freedom to 'innovate,' however they have never actually done so. What they have is the forced power to 'integrate.' Isn't that the heart of what is at stake?

Dividing the corporation is the only remedy that makes any sense. Level the playing field as it were. No one can compete with Microsoft's integration. By the time 3rd party developers get a hold of the code by which to plan their strategy, Microsoft has had ample time to integrate the applications seamlessly into the OS.

No company can financially target any Microsoft-established market. Look where Microsoft's integration has brought us to date; The abandonment of cross-platform standards such as Java (to be replaced with a nearly identical, yet Windows-only language of C#), the secret 'hooks' in the OS that only Microsoft is privy to, allowing 'integration' between the OS and applications that simply cannot be matched by those who might wish to compete, the OEM agreements that have historically punished a vendor for attempting to give a consumer any choice as to what operating system their computer might be shipped with.

Split up Microsoft. Plain and simple. If the products they offer the world continue to dominate then it will be on their own merits. Force Microsoft to consider a much more open stance, force them to acknowledge alternatives. Allow for competition, which in turn will drive the marketplace, and thus jump start a fledgling technical sector. Innovation comes from competition,

and competition comes from rules. Enforce the rules that have made this nation strong for over two hundred years. It is a far too dangerous gamble to concede that one company has the power to lead the world into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hoker.